AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Current Amended) A method of provisioning distribution channels in a communications network, comprising:

~~providing a subscriber accessible provisioning terminal for a subscriber site at which a plurality of distribution channels are allocated to a plurality of drop points;~~

receiving, at a remote provisioning control site, a subscriber provisioning selection via ~~said~~ a subscriber accessible provisioning terminal; and

selectively changing an allocation of distribution channels for ~~said~~ a plurality of drop-points in accordance with said subscriber provisioning selection.

2. (Currently Amended) The invention as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting said subscriber provisioning selection to ~~a~~ the remote provisioning control site.

3. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 2, wherein said remote provisioning control site determines whether said subscriber provisioning selection is acceptable, sends an acknowledgement to said provisioning terminal when said subscriber provisioning selection is acceptable, and sends an error signal when said subscriber provisioning selection is not acceptable.

4. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 3, wherein said subscriber terminal requests a different subscriber provisioning selection upon receiving an error signal from said remote provisioning control site.

5. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

confirming subscriber authorization for changing an allocation of distribution channels.

6. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1, wherein said plurality of distribution channels are time division multiplexed, and said step of selectively changing distribution channel allocation changes cross-connections of a time slot interchange unit.

7. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1, wherein said plurality of distribution channels are provided by a high-bandwidth transmission line.

8. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 7, wherein said high-bandwidth transmission line is a T1 line, and said plurality of distribution channels are time-division multiplexed on said T1 line.

9. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1, wherein said subscriber site is a distant terminal in a digital loop carrier system.

10. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 2, wherein said remote provisioning control site is a remote terminal in a digital loop carrier system.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for provisioning distribution channels in a communications network, comprising:

means for receiving a subscriber provisioning selection at a remote provisioning control site via a subscriber accessible provisioning terminal of a subscriber site where a plurality of distribution channels are allocated to a plurality of drop-points; and

means for selectively changing an allocation of distribution channels for said plurality of drop-points in accordance with said subscriber provisioning selection.

12. (Currently Amended) The invention as defined in claim 11, further comprising:

means for transmitting said subscriber provisioning selection to ~~a~~ the remote provisioning control site.

13. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 12, wherein said remote provisioning control site determines whether said subscriber provisioning selection is acceptable, sends an acknowledgement to said provisioning terminal when said subscriber provisioning selection is acceptable, and sends an error signal when said subscriber provisioning selection is not acceptable.

14. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 13, wherein said means for receiving requests a different subscriber provisioning selection upon receiving an error signal from said remote provisioning control site.

15. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 11, further comprising:

means for confirming subscriber authorization for changing an allocation of distribution channels.

16. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 11, wherein said plurality of distribution channels are time division multiplexed, and said means for selectively changing distribution channel allocation changes cross-connections of a time slot interchange unit.

17. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 11, wherein said plurality of distribution channels are provided by a high-bandwidth transmission line.

18. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 17, wherein said high-bandwidth transmission line is a T1 line, and said plurality of distribution channels are time-division multiplexed on said T1 line.

19. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 11, wherein said subscriber site is a distant terminal in a digital loop carrier system.

20. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 12, wherein said remote provisioning control site is a remote terminal in a digital loop carrier system.